



# *News Release*

**Maine District Office**

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## **U.S. Small Business Administration Announces Annual Award Winners**

### **Justin and Alisa Carney, Owners of Afterlife Affections, LLC Receives SBA's Home Based Business of the Year Award for Maine**

Augusta, Maine – The U.S. Small Business Administration is pleased to announce that Justin and Alisa Carney, owners of Afterlife Affections, LLC of Washburn, have been selected to receive the SBA Home Based Business of the Year Award for Maine for 2017.

Afterlife Affections is a pet cremation service. The company offers pet owners who lose their pets the opportunity to provide dignity for those lost pets by having them cremated and returning the remains to the owners, along with a lock of the pet's hair. The company came into being as a result of the Carney's personal loss of their beloved pet dog named Oscar. The company, which provides its services throughout Aroostook County, feels their growth is based on their commitment to the community and their compassion for grieving pet owners.

"Justin and Alisa Carney provide a much-needed service for pet owners at their greatest time of need," said SBA's Maine District Director, Amy K. Bassett. "Afterlife Affections has achieved success by continually demonstrating compassion and understanding. They are an integral part of the community in Aroostook County," added Bassett.

"All our customers come to us full of grief, mourning the loss of their pet," said Justin Carney. "We are able to endure this daily grief by knowing that we are helping them take the first step in the healing process. We use the following Irish quote by Richard Puz on the bottom of our invoices "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal," he added.

**NOTE: A photo of the Carney family is attached.**

Afterlife Affections was nominated for this award by Josh Nadeau, Maine Small Business Development Center Director at Northern Maine Development Commission in Caribou.

The Carney's will be honored at the 2017 SBA Small Business Awards Celebration on May 15, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport. For additional information about the event please visit [www.sba.gov/me](http://www.sba.gov/me) or call Keith Lind at 207-622-8551.



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